

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

Vol. 29, No. 9

September 15, 1961

Whole No. 348



German reprint of "The Captives" by Edward S. Ellis. Published by Osiandersche Buchhandlung of Tübingen. (Illustration courtesy British Museum).

Beadles Abroad

By Denis R. Rogers

Part III — Germany

During the years 1866 to 1868 a ten volume series, bearing the general title: *Vergangenheit und Gegenwart*, was published by Osiandersche Buchhandlung of Tübingen (numbers 1 to 8) and Verlag Von E. Rupfer of Stuttgart (numbers 9 and 10). A uniform cover design was used throughout the series, but the color of the wrapper paper was changed from pale yellow to mauve, when Rupfer took over publication. The size of the books remained constant at 4x5-4/5 inches. Each had a two-tone or colored frontispiece and sold at 24 fr., or 7½ngr.

The cover of number 3 provides the illustration to this issue of "The Round-Up" and readers will see that it is symbolic of the theme of the series, namely "Past and Present." In a blurb on the back of the wrapper the series is described as historical and geographical tales for the young and all ages by J. A. Pflanz.

Although Pflanz is shown as the author of all the stories in the series, acknowledgement is made to the original authors of numbers 1 to 5. It seems likely, therefore, that Pflanz re-wrote the English and French stories in his own language, rather than

translated them into German sentence by sentence. However I cannot be sure on the point, since the texts are set in gothic type and so it is beyond my slender knowledge of German to compare them with the originals. While on the point, I would hazard a guess that all the foreign language editions of the Beadle booklets are free rather than literal translations.

The one Beadle item in the *Vergangenheit und Gegenwart* series is number 3, which is based on that best seller amongst the original dime novels, "Seth Jones" (see "Golden Multitudes" by Frank Luther Mott—The Macmillan Company, New York 1947). Yet I have listed all ten titles (with a free translation into English for each) to show that, in those far off days, a dime novel had sufficient literary merit, in German eyes at any rate, to stand beside such well known works as Bulwer Lytton's "The Last Days of Pompeii."

Vergangenheit und Gegenwart

No. 1. *Der Morgenstern. Geschichtliche Erzählung aus dem Jahr 1225 nach M. Alf. Driou.* (1866—182pp). (The Day-Star. An historical tale of the year 1225 by Alf. Driou).

No. 2. *Sephora. Geschichtliche Erz-*

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ählung aus der letzten Zeit v. Ch. G. nach Ad. Lemerrier. (1866—155 pp). (Sephora. An historical tale of the last days of Christ by Adrien Lemerrier).

- No. 3. Die Gefangene. Geschichtliche Erzählung aus der Ersten Zeit der Amerik. Union nach Ed. S. Ellis. (1866—143 pp). (The Captives. An historical tale of the early days of the American Union by Edward S. Ellis).
- No. 4. Die Letzten Tage von Pompeii. Geschichtliche Schilderung aus dem Jahr 79 nach Chr. (1866—154pp). Nach E. L. Bulwer. (The Last Days of Pompeii. An historical tale of the year 79 B.C. by E. L. Bulwer).
- No. 5. Ein Mann aus dem Volke. Geschichtliche Erzählung aus der Zeit v. Karl des Grossen nach A. Lecler. (1866—118pp). (A Man of the People. An historical tale of the time of Charles the Great by A. Lecler).
- No. 6. Das Griechische Feuer. Geschichtliche Erzählung aus dem Jahr 1453. (1868—131pp). (The Greek Fire. An historical tale of the year 1453).
- No. 7. Margarethe. Ein Lebensbild aus Algier. (1868—197pp). (Margarethe. A biographical sketch of Algiers).
- No. 8. Der Donnerschild. Ein Lebensbild aus Schweden. (1868—134p). (The Thunder Shield. A biographical sketch of Sweden).
- No. 9. Columbus, der Entdecker der neuen Welt. (Not dated—160pp). (Columbus, The Discoverer of the New World).
- No. 10. Kambyzes, König von Persien. Geschichtliche Erzählung aus dem 6. Jahrhundert v. Chr. (Not Dated—150pp). (Kambyzes, King of Persia. An historical tale of the year 600 B.C.)

Herr Reithmüller of Osiandersche Buchhandlung tells me that his firm was founded as long ago as 1600 and was conducted by the Osiander family until the middle of the nineteenth century. The firm now specializes in university text books, fine editions

and art books.

When Rupfer took over publication, Benziger Brothers of New York and Cincinnati became selling agents for the series in the U. S. A. I have not tried to find out the history of either Rupfer or Benziger.

If any reader can find copies of the volumes in the Vergangenheit und Gegenwart series, he will possess not only extremely attractive little volumes, finely printed on good rag paper, but also very great rarities. At present the only known surviving copies are in the British Museum.

Part IV — Holland

Holland has no depot-legale. It is not surprising, therefore, that copies of the three Dutch translations of Beadle's Dime Novels, which are recorded in the Netherlands National Bibliography, have not yet been found. In the circumstances all I can do is to record the details and express the hope that some member of the Happy Hours Brotherhood will prove one day that the booklets themselves are not lost forever—by "landing" copies!

- a). De Dochter van het opperhoofd door Ann S. Stephens.
- b). De Indiaansche spion door Edward S. Ellis.

Both the above were published by D. Noothoven Van Goor of Leiden in 1867. Each book had a frontispiece and sold for 1.90 florins. J. Vlieger sold the books in Amsterdam and acquired the remainder stock on Mr. Van Goor's death in 1897.

The firm founded by Mr. Vlieger still exists and I am most grateful to the present Mr. Vlieger, to Dr. P. A. F. van Veen of G. B. Van Goor Zonen's Uitgeversmaatschappij n. v. (founded by D. Noothoven's brother), to Mr. G. J. Brouwer of Vereniging Ter Bevordering Van De Belangen Des Boekhandels and to Mrs. M. Uding-v. Laarhoven of The Koninklijke Bibliotheek at The Hague for piecing together the history of these books and for a very gallant attempt to locate surviving copies.

- c). Mahaska, of de wraak eener Indiaansche. Histor. tafereelen uit

de wouden van Canada door Ann S. Stephens.

This book was published by J. van Egmond Jr., of Arnheim in 1866. I have made no effort to trace the history of J. van Egmond Jr.

There appears to be little doubt that the Beadle originals of these three tales were:

- a). Malaeska, the Indian Wife of the White Hunter by Ann S. Stephens. (4-Lon—1 June 1861).
- b). Monowano, the Shawnee Spy by Edward S. Ellis. (12-Lon—1 Mar. 1862).
- c). Mahaska, the Indian Princess. A Tale of the Six Nations by Ann S. Stephens. (63-DN—19 December 1863).

Although it is just possible that item (a) could have been a translation of:

Ahmo's Plot; or, The Governor's Indian Child by Ann S. Stephens. (30-Lon—1 August 1863)

and not of the more famous, "Malaeska."

In my opinion it is a tribute to the merit of the old dime novels that so many were translated into languages other than English. I believe such reprints are worthy to be placed on record and I hope that some enthusiast will do likewise for the stories about Nick Carter, which appeared in Italian, Spanish and other languages.

The End

THE MOST RECKLESS RALPH

The Ladies Man

by Charlie Duprez

Of course most all you brothers have read much through the years of the originator of ye Dime Novel Roundup. I've even given him a going over in several articles, but me thinks it's about time something else should be written about him, things that perhaps we have overlooked. He's quite a character as I've found due to my many visits to his ranch, remained overnight many times and did everything but sleep with him. This I'd rather leave to some dizzy

blond who have inclusive of other types of females somehow steered clear, mostly Ralph's fault as he gets jittery anytime some dame does cast sheepish eyes at him. So as he seems content with only his pin up gals pasted all over his bedroom walls I make no suggestions. My wife who was with me several times can not understand his being so allergic to feminine charms as he, going by my wife's observations, thinks he is quite good looking and has a sort of charm all his own.

All around his home town and way beyond he is very well known, mostly as Reckless Ralph. In fact whenever I write to him 'tis always addressed to just Reckless Ralph, S. Grafton, Mass. Wouldn't surprise me none if I simply wrote Reckless Ralph, U.S.A.

In his early years he was as we all know in the milk business, his Dad owning many cows so he did quite a business not only with the milk but also a flourishing ice cream income derived from the very same cows who in that way helped the family's bank roll in more ways than one, yes and no!

I was always amazed at his wonderful collection of not only novels, but the many antiques stored away in various rooms including the attic. Wouldn't surprise me none if his cellar also was piled high.

I've described in a former article about my nights spent there hemmed in on all sides with novels, so won't go into that again. In short it's an event.

On the lower floor of his home there resides his lovely niece with her husband Ray, plus two little Rays. Ray once told me he and his wife often seemed to hear the shooting and yelling going on above, possibly their imagination coming from within the pages of the lurid dime novels. I often wondered how Reckless could sleep with all that going on all around him.

Lately, so he tells me his adventures have been mainly with powder post beetles that seem to have also taken a great interest in novels. In

fact it seems they have taken over his business in their own business like way. This has Ralph quite unhappy, but from last reports he has them on the run. Nothing seems to faze Ralph, except what I've mentioned, women. With these, well, the name Reckless just does not apply. Not being termites they have him on the run—to the point where he can do a mile in nothing flat.

In conclusion let me tell you fellows, in my estimation there isn't a nicer more wholesome type of human than our Reckless Ralph. More power to ya Ralph.

SPACIOUS LIVING TO COME

By H. C. Ingraham

We are living in the greatest scientific revolution in the history of the world. Great changes in every way of life will take place before the year 2000 A.D. I believe the following things, along with new discoveries, will be in wide use by the year 2000:

Man will derive much of his food from the air. Most food will be prepared in a different manner. There will be safer jets carrying man round trip to any place on earth in less than nine. To some extent man will converse by brain waves.

Great strides will be made in the medical world. A person who loses any part of his body by sickness or accident will be able to have it replaced. Even though there will be diseases, vaccines will eliminate many now prevalent, and man can have a life expectancy well over 200 years.

Weather will be largely controlled. Population problems will be solved somewhat by large apartment buildings going up in the air for half a mile or higher. Practically all heat will come directly from the sun.

A person may be able to talk to anyone anywhere in the world in a minute or so, and see them by television while they are talking. There will be birth control. Ten new elements will be discovered and one will help effect a cure for cancer. Many

secrets of the earth's interior will be revealed.

Man will reside on the moon, travel between the planets, and have a great desire to live in space because space time is many times slower than earth time for humans. Man will contact many other intelligent beings on other planets.

NEWSY NEWS

by Ralph F. Cummings
161 Pleasant St., So. Grafton, Mass.

We have a brother member, Herbert Kenney by name, that's been one sick boy, let me tell you, ever since he had an ulcer burst a year ago last June, up near Portland Maine. He was rushed to the hospital, and he had one pretty hard time of it, and off and on, when he came out of the hospital, he's been back and forth for one thing and another, this last time over a month or near two I should say, this summer has been the worst of all. Said this last time he thought sure he was a goner.

He is now home, but not able to walk yet, trying to get his strength back, and his side kick, Bill Waddle, who lives side of him, is having a time of it too, not as bad as Bert but bad enough—at least, they will have a chance to read some of the old timers, that's if they can enjoy them in their present condition, but at least, it's nicer to know they can read to take away the long hours of suffering. Bert sure has been thru a lot, both of them have, for that matter. Bert was planning for this summer to get up to see Bill Burns, George French, Ralph Smith and a few other brother members up there, but his plans went haywire. Bert, Bill and myself are very good friends and some day I want to get over there and try and cheer them up as much as possible.

Eli Messier and his wife have been doing some traveling from July 8th to Aug. 16th, of which they took a sight-seeing bus trip to California and back, visiting all the different

places of interest coming and going. They've seen a lot of the country you bet, and lots of nice things too, as well as the Black Hills, Deadwood Dick country, Young Wild West's home town, Buffalo Bill's home, Death Valley, the bad lands, etc.

Clyde Wakefield and wife spent a couple weeks vacation up in New Hampshire.

Ralph Smith and his wife took a trip down to old Virginia, for a spell, and they had a fine time.

We don't hear much from Dave Adams, I wonder if he is sick again. Hope he is all O.K. and is trying to do the things he wants to do and what not.

I'm wondering who was the lucky collector to get the wonderful collection of old story papers and novels, etc., that Jim Martin had since he died—he sure had some wonderful stuff.

Tom Learnard, H. H. B. #12, is still hot on the trail of Liberty Boys of '76. Don wants #719, The Liberty Boys Wager, if he can't get no. 115, as this one has 2 pages missing, so if he don't get it in one, he will the other.

Don says Harold Poore, H. H. B. #207, is coming east some time in October, and wants Clyde Wakefield, Eli Messier, Eddie Le Blanc and myself to come over there, as well as other members if they can make it, for a real get-together. Don also says he had a strange experience a few days ago. While going through his file of Liberty Boys of '76 he came across a beautiful copy of No. 308, The Liberty Boys at Wetzells Mill, or Cheated by the British, in mint condition. This copy has five perfect covers, front and back, five beautiful pictures, all alike. Don now calls this copy "Tousey's Generosity." Has any of the other brothers of the H. H. B. had a similar experience?

Edward Levy, H. H. B. member 218, is looking for a set of the Merriwell post cards. He says they sound

very intriguing, and he'd be very glad to buy any of those which depict dime novel characters on them.

Haven't heard from H. H. B. member #48, Albert D. Stone, #49 Bill Erbe, #51 C. V. Clark, #54 George A. Urban, #57 Albert Pohlman, #61 Leverett Gleason, #63 T. Kenneth Meadway, #64 E. Dudley Evans and others for so long, I'm wondering what is wrong.

Capt. Frank C. Acker, H. H. B. 53, some months ago he bought a copy of "Boys Will Be Boys," by Frank Turner, over in England. He says on page 11 he mentions Reckless Ralph's Dime Novel Roundup. Sure is quite a compliment to the old Roundup, I'll say. Frank has landed some Tarzan's in German, for his collection.

In American Heritage (mag.) for June 1961, on pages 24 to 27 and 88, there's a fine article on "Frank Merriwell at Yale—and Again and Again," with a full page colored picture of Frank on the Gridiron, with 6 pictures, black and white, also pictures of Gil Patten in the 90s, also 1934.

The Horatio Alger Award was given to 8 men recognizing the Rags to Riches, American success stories in widely varied fields. One of the winners was Frank Armour Jr., Pres. of H. J. Heinz Co., of Pittsburgh, Pa. Started his career as plant guide. John W. Galbreath a Realtor of Columbus, Ohio, also Pres. of Pittsburgh Pirates baseball club.

Verna Solensky, 879 41st Street, Brooklyn, N. Y., wants information on the description of a novel, the cover should have a picture of a young, wild looking girl, riding a horse side-saddle, with a gun in hand and a knife clenched between her teeth, through a group of vigilantes. The story should be based on the girls life. The title should be something like "The Bandit's Daughter, or The Outlaw's Bride." Sold some time around 1875-1879. The N. Y. Public Library has, or did have, a novel

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

65 A. R. Seder, 730 East Benton Ave., Naperville, Ill. (New address)

with a girl riding on a horse on the cover, titled "Bandit's Daughter," by Wm. J. Hamilton, but it was the wrong one. Who can help Verna with this information?

The Milwaukee Green Sheet (a newspaper), had a writeup on old novels Dec. 28, 1960. "Dime Novels, Full of Violence, Got Their Start 100 Years Ago." Has quite a bit of reading through center of the front page and two illustrations of Beadle's 1/2 Dime Pocket Library, #4, The Double Daggers, and Old Cap Collier Library #671, The Crooks and Labyrinth of New York. Frank Shott says its a rehash all the way through of other articles years before.

Albert Johnson of Sacramento, Calif., also sent in a clipping, "A Wild West Show that Built a Legend." Has picture of Buffalo Bill. It gives a very fine account of "The Lives and Legends of Buffalo Bill," by Don Russell, at \$5.95. Should be a very good book, and from what I've seen of it, it is, as Ed LeBlanc brought a copy of it up a few months ago, and showed it to me.

Bill Burns has quite a lot of trading material, so if anyone has old novels, libraries or story papers to trade, write 15 Cottage St., Rockland, Maine.

Sam Tanenbaum got hold of some of those rare posters, with a heap of Munro 10c Novel Pictures on 'em in A1 condition. Says they are easily worth \$25.00 each.

Lou Kohrt stopped in a while ago to see Bill Claggett and his collection of novels, now he is up to see Clar-

ence Orser of Bemidji, Minn. Lou sure can make the rounds all O.K.

EXCHANGE COLUMN

For Sale. 75c each. Sailor Boy with Dewey by Boneheill; Boy Traders, George in Camp, Don Gordon's Shooting Box, by Castlemon; Baseball Joe Series by Chadwick; Boy Scouts under Sealed Orders, Boy Scouts for Uncle Sam, by Payson; Slate Picker by Prentice; College Rebel, by Pat-ten. Jack R. Schorr, 853 So. Lemon St., Anaheim, Calif.

FOR EXCHANGE

Beadles Dime and Half Dime Libraries, Wide Awake Library, Old Cap Collier Library, Buffalo Bill, Nick Carter, Rough Rider, Pluck and Luck, Brave and Bold, etc.

Wm. M. Burns

15 Cottage St. Rockland, Maine

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in TIP TOP WEEKLY

Stories of Frank and Dick Merriwell and Tip Top Weekly are my specialty. Have hundreds in good condition at reasonable prices. Send want list.

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BACK NUMBERS

of Reckless Ralph's Dime Novel Roundup Nos. 1 to 237 for sale.

Ralph F. Cummings

161 Pleasant St., So. Grafton, Mass.

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SPECIAL ASSORTMENTS

Young Men of America, Girls and Boys of America, Boys of New York, Boys Champion, New York Boys Weekly, Young American, Boys and Girls Weekly (large page size). Choose any five for \$5.00. No specific dates selected.

Young Sports, Golden Weekly, Tousey's Boys Weekly, Young America, The Boys Own. Choose any four for \$3.00. No specific dates selected.

Our Boys and Girls, Boys and Girls Weekly, Argosy, Golden Days, Happy Days, Golden Hours. Choose any five for \$1.25. No specific dates selected.

The Golden Prize, American Miscellany, Home Circle, Western World, The Hearthstone, Chimney Corner, Saturday Journal, Saturday Evening Post (1870's), Weekly Novellist, Family Favorite, New York Ledger, The Whole Family, Happy Hours, Beadle's Weekly, New York Weekly, Fireside Companion, Family Story Paper, Saturday Night. Choose any 15 for \$3.00. No specific dates selected.

Old picture weeklies—Harpers, Gleason's Pictorial, Illustrated World, etc. 10 different for \$2.00, assorted.

Colored cover novels, reading assortment, damaged issues, old timers, all different, 5c weeklies; good enough for reading, not good enough for regular prices. 6 for \$2.00.

Modern Boy, Triumph. (English weeklies). 25 for \$2.00.

Merriwell thick paper books, damaged, 6 for \$2.00.

Red Raven Library \$2.00. Old Sleuth Weekly \$1.25.

New York Historical Society Bulletin. (Quarterly). 13 years, 68 numbers between 1928-1940. The lot, \$15.00. Sample, 50c.

Sexton Blake's Detective Weekly, 4 different, \$1.00.

Munro's 10c Novels. \$2.00 up.

Beadle's New Dime Novels. \$3.00 up.

Beadle's Dime Library, \$1.50 up.

Saturday Library, \$2.00. American Library, \$2.00.

Nugget Library, \$1.50 up. Nickel Library, \$1.50-\$2.00.

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Dick and his Friend Duke, \$1.50. The Devil's Diamond, \$1.50. For Honor, by Burrage, \$1.50. Dick Dauntless, Privateer, \$1.50. Fatherless Will, \$1.50. Charley and Jim at Scarum School, \$1.50. Charity Joe, \$1.50. Caractacus, Champion of the Arena, \$1.50. All's Well (Shipwreck), \$1.00. The Captain of the School, \$1.50. Boyhood's Battles, \$1.50. The Boys of Bircham School, \$1.50. Black-Eyed Susan (Pirates), \$1.50. Arab Jack, \$1.50.

Postpaid.

Subject to prior sale.

RALPH P. SMITH

Box 985

Lawrence, Mass.